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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 30, 2018

Re: Docket No. RM-2017-3, Ten Year Rate System Review Reply Comments

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the *Hightower Lowdown* to submit reply comments for the Ten Year Rate System Review. Chronicling the ongoing economic and democratic struggles faced by America's ordinary people, the *Hightower Lowdown* is a monthly newsletter mailed at nonprofit rates to more than 100,000 paid subscribers.

It is clear that the current CPI rate cap has substantially hurt the financial condition of the Postal Service, which in turn has led to cuts and a reduction in the quality of service it provides. As mail volumes continue to decline, the price cap imperils the Postal Service's financial viability. We rely on a strong Postal Service to provide affordable, reliable, and timely delivery of news that is vital to our democracy.

We are willing to pay our fair share to ensure that the Postal Service is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable, thriving, public institution that provides prompt and affordable service. The proposal by the PRC is a step in the right direction.

Without additional pricing authority, it seems clear that the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services. In the end, a Postal Service that is unable to support itself financially is far costlier to the *Hightower Lowdown* than a modest increase in rates.

Sincerely,

Jim Hightower
Hightower Lowdown